

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4431

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, OCON, PORG

SUBJECT: UNESCO: MASS MEDIA (ITEM 69)

1. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MASS MEDIA (19 C/PLEN/DR-20)

WAS ADOPTED IN PLENARY NOV. 29 BY ACCLAMATION.

2. EFFECT OF DR-20 IS TO POSTPONE DECISION ON A

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON THE MASS MEDIA UNTIL 20 GEN

CONG IN 1978, THUS COMMITTING TO COMMITTEE INFAMOUS

SOVIET INSPIRED DECEMBER DRAFT DECLARATION

(19C/91) WHICH CAUSE WALKOUT OF MOST WESTERN NATIONS

FROM DEC. 1975 MEETING. NEW DR-20

WHICH EMERGED FROM DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATING GROUP

WAS ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTABLE, EVEN TO USSR WHO

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NOTED DURING DEBATE THAT IT WOULD ABSTAIN IF A

VOTE IS TAKEN AND THAT "EXPERTS" MEETING WHICH DG IS TO CONVENE WITH GOAL OF PRODUCING A NEW DECLARATION MUST PROCEED ON BASIS OF C19/91 AS THIS IS "THE ONLY OFFICIAL UNESCO DOCUMENT" BEFORE IT.

3. THROUGH SOVIETS WILL DOUBTLESS ENTER ANY NEW DISCUSSIONS OF MASS MEDIA ISSUE CLUTCHING THEIR "DECEMBER DRAFT DECLARATION", IN FACT, DR-20 ALSO NOTES SEVERAL OTHER LESS OBJECTIONABLE WORKING DRAFTS WHICH EMERGED FROM DNG WORKING GROUP HANDLING MASS MEDIA, AND "INVITIES THE DG TO PROCEED TO NEW AND BROADER CONSULTATIONS OF EXPERTS WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING A FINAL DRAFT DECLARATION... WHICH COULD MEET THE LARGEST POSSIBLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT...", DG ALSO SAID WHEN ASKED FOR EXPLANATION HIS INTERPRETATION OF "EXPERTS" THAT THIS WORD WOULD IN FACT BE CONSTRUED IN BROADEST TERMS.

4. THUS FUTURE "EXPERTS" MEETING WILL CERTAINLY INCLUDE BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEMBERS THOUGH DG HAS MADE IT KNOWN PREVIOUSLY THAT HIS IDEA OF "EXPERTS" SHOULD BE NON-GOVERNMENTAL "WISE MEN" WHO WILL PRODUCE AN "ETHICAL" DOCUMENT THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO NEARLY EVERYONE. DURING PREVIOUS DEBATES IN COMMISSION AND DNG, HOWEVER, SEVERAL STATES (INCLUDING US) STIPULATED THAT GOVERNMENTS ALSO NEEDED TO MAKE INPUTS AND PASS JUDGMENT OF FINAL DOCUMENT. THIS VIEW WAS EXPRESSED IN TODAY PLENARY MEETING BY PORTUGUESE DEL. THEREFORE RESULTS MAY WELL BE AN INITIAL DRAFT PREPARED BY "WISE MEN" WHICH WILL BE PASSED TO GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS BEFORE FINAL PRESENTATION TO 20 GEN CONF.

5. PRE-VOTE DEBATE ON MASS MEDIA WAS WELL MANAGED AND MEASURED. GDR REP AS SOVIET MOUTHPIECE "DEEPLY DEPLORED" THAT A UNIVERSAL DRAFT DECLARATION WAS NOT PRODUCED AT 19TH GC, EXPECIALLY SO SINCE THIS DECLARATION WAS TAILORED ESPECIALLY FOR LDC'S AND THE NON-ALIGNED. USSR FOLLOWED SHORTLY WITH SIMILAR STATEMENT, AND ATTACKED "OBSTRUCTIONST POLICIES" OF "SEVERAL DELEGATIONS" (I.E., THE US AND SEVERAL OTHER WEO'S ON DNG) FOR PREVENTING SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON NEW TEXT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET DEL THEN STRUCK THE PACE BY SAYING SOVIETS NONETHELESS WOULD ACQUIESCE TO SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS OF GEN CONF, AND AGREE TO DR-20 EVEN THOUGH USSR WOULD ABSTAIN IF VOTE WAS CALLED IN ORDER TO REGISTER ITS PROTEST AGAINST ABOVE MENTIONED CONDITIONS. OTHER INTERVENTIONS WERE BY BRAZIL AND JAPAN WHO FIRMLY SUPPORTED DR-20. CHINESE SAID THEY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN VOTE, AND YUGOSLAVIV SAID IT WOULD ABSTAIN

AS PROTEST THAT OTHER SIDE HAD NOT TRIED TO NEGOTIATE
A SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT IN GOOD FAITH. CUBA, ON OTHER
HAND, SAID IT WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR DR-20 HAD A VOTE BEEN
TAKEN. SYRIA SUPPORTED DR-20, WHILE STIPULATING THAT
WHOLE NEW OWRLD MASS MEDIA SYSTEM WAS NEEDED. ROMANIA
IN VERY POSITIVE STATEMENT, ONE OF ITS FEW INTERVENTIONS
AT 19 GEN CONF, SAID OF DR-20 THAT IT HAD "VERY WISELY"
COMMITTED THIS ITEM TO 20 GEN CONF, AND THAT
HAD VOTE BEEN TAKEN, IT WOULD HAVE FAVORED RESOLUTION.
PHIL DEL ALSO SUPPORTED DR-20, AS DID PORTUGAL WHICH
NOTED THAT SR-20 AND WORK OF 19TH GEN CONF WAS JUST
ONE STEP TOWARD PRODUCING A UNIVERSAL DRAFT DECLARATION
WHICH NEEDED TO IMPROVE BALANCE IN FLOW OF INFO
BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

6. US DEL INTERVENTION (EXPLANATION POSITION RE MASS MEDIA)
FOLLOWING ADOPTION DR-20, AND DR-20 (AS APPROVED)
FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

DECON 1/1/78.
MARSHALL

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